

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Thomas A. Hendricks House and Stone Head Road Marker

and/or common Stone Head House and Stone Head Road Marker

2. Location

street & number Intersection of St. Rd. #135 and Bellsville Road N/A not for publication

city, town Stone Head N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Brown code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alice Lorenz and Linda Lorenz Norton

street & number R. 2, Box 91

city, town Nashville X vicinity of state Indiana 47448

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office, Brown County Courthouse

street & number Brown County Courthouse, Courthouse Square

city, town Nashville state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date Marker—date unknown

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas A. Hendricks House and the Stone Head Road Marker are located in a small rural community at the intersection of a state highway and a county road.

The Thomas A. Hendricks House is a two story, bevel sided, T-shaped structure with three prominent gables. The house has a projecting center gable flanked by side porches. A one story extension is located on the rear side of the building. The main house foundation is composed of sandstone and the extension sits on corner stones with no solid foundation. There is a stone basement under the living room.

Facing north, the projecting front gable has two double-hung sash windows, with two-over-two lights and wood surrounds, on each of the two levels (Photo #1). This is the design of all windows on the house. A wood entry door flanks each side of the projecting gable. Each door has an upper light and wood surrounds, and is sheltered by a small porch. Each 6' x 10' porch has scroll-sawn wood trim and is covered by a shed roof, which is supported by square wood posts. An entry door is also located on the east side exterior of the projecting bay. The front facade has wood corner boards, as do the other facades. The bargeboard has simple scroll-sawn trim at the apex and the ends.

The east side facade has a one story projecting bay with windows on each side (Photo #2). A single window is positioned above the projection on the second level. Each side facade terminates in a gable.

The rear has a single story extension with an open porch on the east side, supported by square wood posts.

The roofs have simple projecting eaves. An interior brick chimney is offset on the east gable. Another chimney is in the rear extension.

The interior of the first level of the house consists of five first floor rooms with 11' ceilings. Two of the rooms, the kitchen and dining room, are located in the rear extension. The west front room presently contains a gas furnace and a bathroom. There was no bathroom, plumbing, or electricity in the house originally. A stove in the living room and one in the north room heated the entire house. An enclosed stairway leads to three second floor rooms, which are directly above the three main downstairs rooms.

There is a row of four large sugar maple trees in front of the house. There is also a new white picket fence. The house originally had a picket fence.

Positioned immediately in front of the Thomas A. Hendricks House, the Stone Head Road Marker is a crude sandstone artifact of a carved head on a rectangular base (Photo #4). The 1851 head supposedly resembles the highway commissioner of that time. The base of the marker contains directional information to four Indiana towns; crudely shaped hands point "to Indianapolis 43 mi., to Columbus 17 mi., to Sparksferie, 28 mi., and to Fairfax 27 mi." There are inaccuracies in the spelling and mileage. Below the distance is written, "1851. . .H. Cross". The marker is presently painted white with the lettering, hair, eyes, mouth and jaw whiskers painted black. The tip of the nose is missing and one eye is marked due to having been hit by rifle bullets.

The marker was originally positioned on a wooden post in front of a store, 100 yards west of its present location. It has been situated on a cement base at its present location since at least 1900, and is now surrounded by a fence to discourage vandalism.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Stone Head, 1851	Builder/Architect	Henry Cross
	Hendricks House, 1891		Thomas A. Hendricks

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stone Head Road Marker and the Thomas A. Hendricks House are historic reminders of rural Brown County's past. The Stone Head Road Marker is significant as the only remaining road marker carved by Henry Cross, one of the last creative tombstone carvers. The marker also gave the town its name. The Thomas A. Hendricks House, the only frame farmhouse in Stone Head, was built by Thomas A. Hendricks, owner of a sawmill and co-owner of a flour and grist mill, which served the Brown County area for 60 years.

The Stone Head Marker was carved from sandstone by Henry Cross in 1851. The carving was one of three such markers made by Cross in fulfillment of a legal requirement for each man to work four days per year on the construction of township roads. He had worked out this agreement with George Summa, the township road supervisor, to whom the road marker supposedly bears a strong resemblance. The other two markers were smaller and no longer exist.

Henry Cross was a farmer and woodsman who, in 1850, owned about 120 acres of land one-half mile from Pikes Peak, a neighboring town of Stone Head. He built a log cabin on his land, which he spent much time and energy in clearing and farming. The Brown County area was just developing at this time. Because of the hilly countryside, small populations were scattered throughout the area, and each small community usually had a church, cemetery, mill, meeting place, and general store.

Henry Cross also worked actively as a part-time sculptor and carver, and produced nearly 100 tombstones in the last 15 years of his life. Several of the stone markers can be found in the nearby New Bellsville, Mt. Zion, and Mellott Cemeteries. Other Cross tombstones are located in many southern Brown and Bartholomew County cemeteries.

His tombstones were individually carved from sandstone which he quarried from a creek on his property. Unlike the crude road marker, the tombstones were exquisitely carved and contain stylized weeping willow trees, roses, sheep, etc. His creative work was unique at a time when tombstone designs had become standardized and mechanical means were used for the stone cutting. W. Douglas Hartley, an art professor at Illinois State University, who researched Cross's life and work, called him, "Brown County's first creative artist."¹ He died on February 26, 1864, at age 42, when a burning tree fell on him.

The marker was originally located on a wooden post in front of a store which was located 100 yards to the west of the marker's present location. It has survived a number of incidents since its creation. Frank Hohenberger, who wrote the column, "Down in the Hills o' Brown County," in The Indianapolis News, wrote, "Leonard Wheeler told me that the stone had fallen into the creek at one time and laid there for ten years. Wes Polley, a road contractor, came along and dug it out. Hill Coffey, of Nashville, retraced the lettering and it was placed on a cement pillar. . ."² At another time, a rifle bullet knocked off the tip of the nose. On January 10, 1975, the marker was stolen and this event was reported in a column of The Indianapolis News. The marker was recovered a few months later and a limestone copy of the marker, which is not exact, was carved by a Bloomington, Indiana, stone carver. The copy sits in the Brown County Historical Society's headquarters, and the original marker was refastened to its cement base.

¹ The Indianapolis News, July 6, 1966, p. 23, col. 1

² Bill Thomas. The Brown County Book, p. 46

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Thos. A. Hendricks House and
Stone Head Road Marker

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

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The Stone Head Road Marker is one of only two existing works signed by Henry Cross. It is of great interest to tourists, who frequently stop alongside the road to take pictures of it. The marker has been the subject of television news features and numerous magazine and newspaper articles. It continues to sit alongside the road as a rare memento of the early years of Brown County.

Located just behind the marker is the house built in 1891 by Thomas A. Hendricks, a prosperous resident of Brown County in the late 1800's. The house's construction materials and large size are unusual for the relatively poor farm area, which is characterized by hilly land unsuitable for farming. The structure is now the only frame farmhouse in Stone Head. A neighbor's house, torn down in 1968, was quite similar to the Hendricks House. Supposedly, Tom Hendricks and the neighbor, Mr. Seelmaer, had a contest to see who could built the nicer house.

The Hendricks House sits on a 72-acre farm purchased in 1851 from the U.S. Government. The farm remained in the Hendricks family until it was sold to the present owner at a guardianship sale in 1972. Tom Hendricks operated a sawmill on his farm, and all the interior and exterior walls of the house were constructed of poplar cut from trees on the property and prepared in the sawmill. There was also a large red frame, steam powered grist and flour mill, located 150 yards southwest of the house on the Pleasant Valley Creek bank. The mill was built and first operated by Henry St. Johns around 1865 on land leased from the Hendricks. The mill was next owned by Charles Suffels; Squire Swain and Tom Hendricks subsequently purchased it.

Farmers throughout much of Brown County brought their grain to the mill for processing. At one time it was the only flour mill in Brown County. Frank Hohenberger said of the mill, "This is the one live industry in the County."³ The mill was in operation for 60 years and was daily producing 3000 lbs. of flour or cornmeal at its peak. In 1918, Leonard Wheeler bought the mill; it burned down in 1925 and was not rebuilt.

The mill's business resulted in much traffic and activity from outside areas, although the small community's population remained approximately the same. In 1890, Stone Head had a large general store, which sold not only groceries, but also clothing, hardware, feed, seed, and furniture, and served the surrounding region.

Today, Stone Head is a community of four or five dwellings. The general store has long since closed; the building still stands and has been used as an antique store and is presently used as a metal sculptor's workshop. There is much traffic at the intersection where the Hendricks House sits due to the southern entrance to Brown County State Park and an elementary school located about one-quarter mile from Stone Head. During 1985, State Road 135, which is located only 12 feet from the house, will be redesigned to leave a buffer of about 25 feet in front of the house and marker, which are susceptible to damage from highway vehicles. This will contribute to the preservation of these landmarks to Brown County's past.

³ The Indianapolis Star, August 24, 1924, p. 16, c. 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Nashville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	2	7	2	0	4	3	3	1	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Lorenz, member

organization Brown County Historical Society

date 8-15-84

street & number R. 2, Box 91

telephone 812/988-4852

city or town Nashville

state Indiana 47448

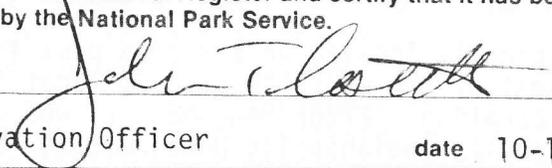
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10-18-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration